

SPRINGSTIMES

Your Sandy Springs News Source

Greetings!



It's only been five years since Sandy Springs became a city, and it is amazing what has been accomplished! Our Police Department sprang to life in six months, and we gradually went from the 40 officers assigned by Fulton County to Sandy Springs' full force of 125 officers. Our crime statistics show a drop in property crime by nine percent. Our Fire Rescue Department, also four years old, receives new accolades for its innovative initiatives every few months. Sandy Springs has just been named a "Crown Community Award" winner for our heart safe program from "American City & County" magazine.

The physical improvements to our roads and traffic system are unparalleled. The Public Works Department has paved 94 miles of streets, and seven miles of sidewalks have been constructed, with more to come. Thirty-four intersections have been improved. In some cases, new turn lanes have been added; in others, our engineers restriped the pavement to add lanes, which lessened congestion. Traffic lights have been synchronized along Roswell Road and other arteries. This has required the installation of 94 miles of fiber optic cable. The effect is that the Traffic Management Center in City Hall can react instantly when a traffic back-up occurs, and the traffic lights are adjusted automatically from City Hall.

Until we became a city, the stormwater system in the ground had been totally neglected. The City now has an active stormwater inspection and maintenance program. To date, 119 projects have been completed, ranging from culvert replacements to catch basin repairs to headwall replacements.

All this has been done without raising the property tax rate. It is capped in our charter, and only the residents may vote to change it. In addition, our property tax assessments were capped for city tax purposes, so they could not increase over the rate of inflation. This was important in the years when property values were sky rocketing. Despite the reduction of city revenue due to the recession, our current annual budget still allocates 20 percent to capital improvements. In other words, we are not finished improving our infrastructure.

If you have not yet seen the new Overlook Park on Morgan Falls Road, which opened in July, you are in for a treat. It is so beautiful that Sandy Springs won first place from Keep Georgia Beautiful in recognition of this added public facility. Our recreation programs are bursting with activities, with the largest gymnastics program in the region. The recreation activities include fee paying as well as scholarship youngsters, in order to serve the entire community.

Now to my one big disappointment: We have yet to succeed in lowering the unreasonable 21 percent penalty rate that Atlanta levies on every gallon of water our residents consume. Soon after we incorporated, we started the interminable process under State law to seek a reduction. As we were finally headed to State Court to seek a resolution of the water rate issue, Atlanta intervened and convinced the Federal District Court to obtain control over the dispute. Our high water bills are being used by Atlanta to cover their huge sewer improvement costs. The sewer improvements were ordered by the Federal Court. We are scheduled for a Federal Circuit Court hearing in January 2011, where we are appealing and seeking removal of the Federal Court so we may pursue our remedy under the State law.

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Stormwater – We've Come a Long Way!

"Put it in ditches" was the standard when people moved into cities from the countryside. It wasn't just stormwater runoff that people put in the ditches either. It was also sanitary wastes, which lead to some pretty unhealthy conditions.

"Put it in Pipes" was the big improvement. Around the beginning of the 1900s, stormwater and sanitary wastes were put in pipes that drained to streams and rivers at the edge of a city. This made life in the city much healthier, but streams and rivers were dirty.

"Put it in separate pipes" was the next big step forward, which was practiced from the 1940s until the 1970s. Having a separate pipe system for stormwater lead to an efficient drainage system that eliminated flooding and got the water out of town – down to the next town where it caused flooding.

"Detain it" became the next solution. In order to solve flooding downstream in the 1970s, detention ponds were designed and constructed to stop the

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Public Safety Uses New Technology



Sandy Springs Fire Rescue Technicians Trenard Foster and Jason Ellis demonstrate the new LUCAS™ 2 Automated CPR device. The Fire Department, along with the Police Department, are using cutting-edge technology to keep Sandy Springs' residents and visitors safe.

All Departments in the City of Sandy Springs employ state-of-the-art technology and public safety is no exception. Sandy Springs Fire Rescue is using the LUCAS™ 2 Automated CPR device. The LUCAS™ Chest Compression System is a safe and efficient tool that standardizes chest compressions in accordance with the latest scientific guidelines. It provides the same quality for all patients independent of transport conditions and/or rescuer fatigue. The device also ensures compressions are done effectively in situations where they are difficult, unsafe or not possible.

Sandy Springs Police has launched Nixle. Nixle's Municipal Wire is the first identity-certified and secure communication service that allows local, county and state law enforcement and government agencies to connect with residents by e-mail or the web. The information that you receive is both proximate and personally relevant. It has four Priority Levels and keeps you instantly informed about public safety and community information. You choose the information you want to see, the address (area) you want, and it's delivered to you at no cost. There

are four options to choose:

- **ALERT** - This is time sensitive information to be sent out ASAP - (missing person, crimes just occurred).
- **ADVISORY** - This is also time sensitive information but not the same need or sense of urgency.
- **COMMUNITY** - This is any information that would benefit the community regarding Sandy Springs Police.
- **TRAFFIC** - This is SSPD traffic-related issues taking place in the City of Sandy Springs.

To sign up, visit www.sandyspringsga.org, and click on "Emergency Services," then click on "Police Department."

The Police Department is also pioneering the TASER AXON™. This technology has been worn by 10 patrol officers, and it is a networkable computer that combines advanced audio-video record/capture capabilities. The earpiece, imager, speaker and microphone integrate into the communications loop between the existing radios and the communications headset, recording video of critical incidents from the visual perspective of the officer. The trial period will determine whether the camera will change officer efficiency by reducing report documentation workload while increasing accuracy and accountability. SSPD is one of a handful of departments across the nation trying the camera/software package for Taser.

The Chattahoochee River 9-1-1 Authority (ChatComm) is the first in Georgia to purchase and use Smart911. Smart911 allows residents to enter information online that is delivered automatically to a 9-1-1 operator when a 9-1-1 call is placed. Smart911 SMS allows call takers to initiate a SMS text chat with callers when necessary. Smart911 provides residents with the ability to enter information they want to make available to 9-1-1 call takers through a secure website. A person does not have to be a resident of Sandy Springs to enter information. To add your information into Smart911, visit www.sandyspringsga.org and click on the Smart911 icon.

Court Services' Duties Multiplied

Soon after the City's opening, Municipal Court held the first court session in December 2005. Since then, and in direct concert with the Sandy Springs Police Department, Court Services' duties and responsibilities multiplied.

An average of 1,322 defendants appear in an about 15 sessions of court each month. Court sessions range from one environmental hearing every other week to three arraignments, one trial and four jail sessions weekly. Community Development and Code

Enforcement are so effective, environmental court is now in session only twice a month, thus lightening the court docket greatly. The City also partners with the Georgia State Patrol (GSP) in an effort to enforce the traffic laws on Interstate 285 and Georgia 400.

Another successful program is the Community Service Program. This program takes first time minor offenders and partners them with nonprofits, such as Keep North Fulton Beautiful, to work

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City Stormwater Standard Provides Detention

All site work (land disturbance) applications within Sandy Springs undergo a process including a review of proposed measures to control the migration of silt and sediment and to manage stormwater runoff from developed areas. Resultant stormwater management measures range from large facilities such as at large shopping centers to requiring ground cover for residential deck additions.

The Community Development Department applies a stormwater management ordinance entitled Post-Development Stormwater Management for New Development and Redevelopment (the Stormwater Ordinance) to the review of applications proposing site work. This Stormwater Ordinance is among the original ordinances adopted by the City of Sandy Springs in 2005. The Stormwater Ordinance is based upon and complies with the Metro North Georgia Water Planning District's Model Stormwater Management Ordinance and references the Georgia Stormwater Management Manual (GSSM) as the basis for the policy, criteria and standards for stormwater management within the City.

However, while the GSSM exempts single family, residential lots from the minimum stormwater management standards inherent in the GSSM, the Sandy Springs Community Development Department established a minimum stormwater storage standard for new houses on individual lots that are not located within subdivisions that have stormwater detention facilities. This minimum standard requires creation of onsite stormwater storage sufficient to capture at least 1.2 inches of runoff from new impervious areas on such lots for new houses and



Stormwater management measures can range from large facilities such as at large shopping centers to simple measures such as ground cover for residential deck additions like the one used here at this subdivision along Windsor Parkway, which utilizes a rain garden to provide required stormwater detention.

for impervious installations equaling or exceeding 5,000 square feet. Inherent in the standard is a requirement that the designed discharge of the captured runoff volume shall occur over at least a 24-hour duration.

In some cases, enforcement of the GSSM and the City standard result in stormwater detention on redeveloped properties where none existed prior.

Mayor's Letter, continued from cover

As soon as Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed was inaugurated, our city attorney and I met with him in an effort to engage him in negotiation of this dispute. Despite reminders, there has been no response.

This water rate issue is one of my most important concerns. I have felt frustrated and helpless as the City is caught in the machinations of State procedures and the Federal judiciary. But the issue is never far from my consciousness, and I will continue to do everything in my power to obtain a rate reduction on the terribly unjust water bills Atlanta has inflicted on us.

But here's to the good news—we have so much to celebrate! Happy fifth birthday Sandy Springs.

Mayor Eva Galambos, PhD
City of Sandy Springs



More than 250 members of the community turned out for Sandy Springs' inaugural Veterans Day Celebration. The celebration included the posting of the colors, a military band and a salute to more than 150 veterans, who registered with the City beforehand.

Sandy Springs Celebrates Veterans

Veterans Day is a day to honor all American veterans, both living and those who have passed on. In fact, Veterans Day is largely intended to thank living veterans for their dedicated and loyal service to our country.

On November 11, 2010, the City of Sandy Springs celebrated veterans by letting them know that we deeply appreciated the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free. The City hosted its inaugural Veterans Day Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. at Morgan Falls Overlook Park (220 Morgan Falls Road). More than 250 people attended the event.

The keynote address was given by Lt. Gen. R. Steven Whitcomb (Ret.), who served in many capacities during his 30-year career with the US Army. Most recently Lt. Gen Whitcomb was appointed as the 63rd Inspector General of the Army, a post he retired from in August of this year.

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Stormwater, continued from cover

big floods that were happening downstream of development. These design methods focused on the bigger storms with a frequency of once every 10 years and once every 25 years. This did little to stop the erosion and flooding that occurred with frequent small storms, but it did bring about the birth of modeling and hydrologic regulations.

“Don’t flood your neighbor” was the next step. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, with the advent of computer models, engineers were able to comply with new stormwater ordinances that required that development did not increase the peak flow or adversely affect their neighbors.

The 1970s also saw the beginning of several federal environmental legislative acts, one of which was the Clean Water Act. In 1987, the Clean Water Act expanded to include stormwater. Starting in the late 1990s, stormwater ordinances were revised to address pollution and smaller storms. This brought about design standards addressing small frequent storms and stream buffers.

“Protect the streams” became important in the 2000s. Another element of the Clean Water Act is for streams to meet their designated use. This reinforced the call for treating pollutants in stormwater runoff and began to tie together efforts by wastewater treatment plants, drinking water plants, stormwater pollution and ecology.

“It’s all water” is now the call. Protecting our streams, reducing pollution and protecting the flora and fauna in the streams now has stormwater regulations looking at treating stormwater at its source, reducing the amount of stormwater runoff and infiltrating stormwater back into the groundwater system. The regulations in 2010s are becoming increasingly tight and require water professionals to work together from the wastewater, drinking water, stormwater and ecology side to protect our streams and the environment.



The first ever Sandy Springs bocce tournament for about 100 special needs children from North Fulton schools found that there's a winner in every one of us. The Department hopes to expand to gymnastics and basketball after the first of the year.

Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Reaches Out to Special Needs Children

Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Department assisted in the first Special Olympics event held in the City. Nearly 100 special needs children from North Fulton schools participated in a bocce ball event at the Hitson Memorial Activities Center. This is the first in a series of proposed events that will be sponsored by the Recreation and Parks Department. These programs will help identify the wants of special needs children so a six-week summer camp can be designed to maximize fun in a safe environment.

Recently, Recreation and Parks staff began expanding programs to reach all residents of Sandy Springs. “It is really important that we provide programming that reaches all our residents through athletic and leisure activities,” said Ronnie Young, Sandy Springs Recreation and Parks Director. While attending Camp Happy Hearts, an Alpharetta summer camp that hosts children with mild disabilities, the Recreation and Parks staff was encouraged by the athleticism and talent of special campers. The Department immediately began to develop programming geared specifically for special needs children living in and around Sandy Springs, an area where the need was present.

A partnership has been developed with the Fulton County School system and more specifically with Maureen Wales, Chairperson for the Fulton County Schools Special Olympics Management Team. The Recreation and Parks staff will be providing assistance at many of the events that Wales has previously scheduled and will help to find venues throughout the City to host these events. Many of these events, such as bocce, gymnastics, tennis, basketball and track and field will be held in Sandy Springs in order to train and prepare the athletes for the Special Olympics.

The Department hopes to host its first gymnastics program in mid-January, basketball in February and also a social family dance party.

Court, continued from page 2

off their fines so their cases can be dismissed. If the offender is age 17-20, they participate in the program under the supervision of their parents.

Municipal Court handles more than 1,250 citations, more than 300 arrests and transports some 80 prisoners to court on an average monthly basis. To meet this need, the City

of Sandy Springs entered into an Inter-governmental Agreement (IGA) with Pelham Police Department in Mitchell County for long-term sentencing of defendants. This cut the City’s jailing expense drastically. Another cost-effective measure was signing the IGA with the City of Doraville to book and temporarily hold defendants arrested by our Police Department.

Contact Us

Sandy Springs Web site: www.sandyspringsga.org

Sandy Springs Citizen Response Center: 770-730-5600

In compliance with the American Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by contacting the ADA Compliance Officer at 770-206-1544.